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J. C. HOWARD

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1864 0.

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# Doctor Howard's Discourse

BEFORE THE

HUMANE SOCIETY.

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## ERRATA.

*Page 20 ninth line, for be read he.*

*Page 58 top line, for Mr. John C. Warren, read John C.  
Warren, M. D.*

A  
DISCOURSE

DELIVERED BEFORE THE  
HUMANE SOCIETY

OF THE  
COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS,

AT THEIR  
SEMIANNUAL MEETING,

June 12, 1804.

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*"the universul cause  
Acts not by partial but by general laws."*

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BY JOHN C. HOWARD, A. M. M. M. S.

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BOSTON :  
PRINTED BY HOSEA SPRAGUE—NO. 4, WEST-STREET.  
1804.



*At a meeting of the Humane Society, June 12th, 1804,*

Voted that Samuel Eliot, Esq. Hon'ble Judge Davis, Hon'ble General Derby, Ebenezer Hancock, Esq. and the Hon'ble Judge Dawes, be a Committee to wait upon Doct. John C. Howard, and to return him the thanks of this Society, for his learned and ingenious discourse delivered before the Humane Society this day, and to request of him a Copy for the Press.

*An Extract from the Records of this Society.*

JOHN AVERY Rec'g. Sec'y.

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Boston, June 12, 1804.

GENTLEMEN,

*The Vote of the Humane Society, which you do me the favor to communicate, constituting a value which was before of dubious existence, I with pleasure submit to their disposal as a right, the discourse which I had the honor to pronounce at their request.*

*I am very respectfully, &c. &c.*

JOHN C. HOWARD.

Samuel Eliot, Esq.  
Hon. Judge Davis,  
Hon. Gen. Derby,  
Ebenezer Hancock, Esq. and the  
Hon. Judge Dawes,

} Committee.

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# DISCOURSE

BEFORE THE

*HUMANE SOCIETY.*

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THE frequent attempts to investigate the principle of animation are in our opinion so many indirect declarations, that the theories on the subject hitherto published, are insufficient to explain its various phenomena. If this conclusion be just, we trust we shall have your indulgence, while we hazard a few observations on this interesting question, as connected with the object of your benevolent institution, however feeble may be our efforts to elucidate the subject. It would be thought presumption to offer a system, while announcing the ruins of those which time and authority have sanctioned. But tyros in science, we have only learned to doubt; if from this we advance to the detection of errors,

the metcors of false principles will no longer bewilder the path of truth.

That it is a distinguishing characteristic of animal life, to preserve in all situations a temperature absolutely independent of that of the atmosphere, we consider an axiom incontrovertible. We shall not pretend to give a detail of the various hypotheses, which have been imagined to explain this phenomenon, but shall confine ourselves to a few remarks on that only which seems, if not to have satisfied, almost to have silenced inquiry. We refer to that which accounts for the production and preservation of the animal temperature, by the evolution of heat in the lungs, from the chemical decomposition of that portion of the air we breathe, called vital air, or oxygen. According to this idea, the lungs were considered as the furnace of the system, and the office of the blood was to distribute the heat which it had there acquired, throughout the course of its circulation. To obviate the objections, which the equal temperature of parts, proximate and remote, opposed to this principle, the qualities of sensible and latent were invented, whose proteus powers were ever ready to adapt themselves to the exigences of their employers. Such was the mania of system, that those appearances only were regarded, which could be

plausibly explained upon its principles ; others, which offered the most simple and satisfactory solution were overlooked, and the daring attempt was made, to subject the powers of universal nature to the test of chemical experiment. But like the confusion of Babel, the temerity was punished, contradictory results were produced from experiments commenced with the same views, and the absurd conclusions which followed, dispelled the cloud from reason, and released science from bondage.

After some remarks on certain acknowledged properties of matter, animate as well as inanimate, our ideas on this subject may be more generally intelligible. That the particles of matter do not touch is a fact abundantly proved, by the indefinite expansion and contraction of bodies. We conceive the medium of this variation of dimension to be a subtle universal fluid, which has been successively denominated matter of fire, electricity, caloric. Either of these terms will suit our purpose, as we conceive them but different names for the same principle. To consider then the subject in as popular a manner as possible, we shall assume as demonstrated, that the component particles of matter are surrounded with this fluid in various proportions, in the form of atmospheres ; and as there is in nature an uni-



versal tendency to an equilibrium, that consequently bodies possessing it in different quantities, coming into contact, respectively communicate and receive it ; that the presence of this fluid is the necessary, and only cause of the fluidity and mobility of bodies, and that motion is an effect of its relative and unequal combinations. For could once an equilibrium be produced, a cessation of all motion, and universal solidity would ensue. Animated bodies, from the nice and peculiar arrangement of their particles, possess the property of maintaining that action, which the first impulse of motion commences, and of longer resisting the perpetual nisus for an equilibrium. Animal heat is an effect of this property, and is the criterion of the existence of this distinguishing characteristic. The successive expansions and contractions, then, of the animal fibres, constitute those vibrations which we call life, and they are equally dependent upon the same principle, the same universal cause, which first gave motion to matter. Vain and presumptuous is the attempt to discover this principle, by anatomical investigation or chemical analysis ; for its evanescent existence waits not their results, and the moment of research is but the signal for its escape.

Before we exhaust your patience, we will advert to the important process of respiration, and suggest our ideas on the mode of its origin. It would be as uninteresting as unnecessary, at this time, to describe physiologically the various parts concerned in this function so essential to life. We shall not rest satisfied however, with merely saying that "the child opens its mouth to cry, and the air rushes down," but we shall note some facts which may be obvious to common observation, and whose rational and philosophical explanation requires no uncommon capacity to understand. The animal at birth from a state of perfect security enters a medium essentially different from that in which it had previously existed. Deprived of that connexion on which its life depended, it would speedily fall a sacrifice, did not its peculiar organization render it susceptible of a new mode of existence. Immersed into the atmosphere, immediate evaporation is the effect of the first contact of air upon its delicate surface. A sudden contraction is the necessary consequence. This is the first stimulus, and like the electric with which it may be identified, it immediately pervades the whole system, although we observe it only, where some obvious effect is produced. In consequence of this evaporation, the intercostal muscles are con-



tracted, the ribs are raised, and the diaphragm is drawn down; thus is the cavity of the thorax enlarged, and thus are the lungs expanded. *Then, and not till then, is the air admitted, and the cry which succeeds is no more than the index of this occurrence.* The undiquaque pressure of the atmosphere would preserve an equilibrium, and thus expanded would the lungs remain, did not the inspired air destroy the balance by producing evaporation, and there again exciting contraction. The stimulus is instantaneously propagated, and the abdominal muscles with the diaphragm, by their reaction become the ready and efficient auxiliaries in the office of expiration. Thus the successive application of the same stimulus produces the alternate expansion and contraction of respiration, thus are the blood vessels on the surface, and in the lungs successively excited to propel their contents, and thus is life maintained by the reciprocal abstraction of its essential principle.

It has been objected that as the air at birth is universally applied to the whole surface, the abdominal muscles, being alike stimulated, would, by their synchronous contraction, counteract that of the intercostal. But from the peculiar construction of the animal machine, the cavity of the thorax is the only one which can be enlarged by muscular contraction. General experience and observation confirm our ideas on this

subject, as any one may be convinced who considers the effect, which the first contact of cold water has upon him in bathing, or witnesses the involuntary gasp which marks the return from syncope.\* In fact the abdominal muscles in the process of respiration act merely as the antagonists of the intercostal, and they appear to us as dependant on each other for their powers, as the flexors and extensors of the arms and legs.

Many and various have been the opinions respecting the change which the air undergoes in respiration. Some have supposed a diminution of the whole, others a deprivation of some particular part, whose peculiar quality was to operate various powerful effects in the animal economy. It is our opinion, that its proper purpose is to stimulate the lungs, and thereby the system in general to action; and that the change, which it afterwards exhibits, is relatively to this operation an unimportant occurrence, and merely an effect of its combination with the subtile matter of evaporation. If it were true, as has been asserted, that the bulk of the air expired, after making allowance for variation of temperature, was less than of that inspired, still the conclusion would not be inevitable that any portion was absorbed in the lungs: as the diminution

\* This simple fact throws more light on the resuscitating process than all the treatises which have been written on the subject.



in the volume might very well be accounted for, by the formation of water and carbonic acid gas, which experiments out of the body abundantly prove. *But the air in respiration never can come in contact with the blood in the pulmonary vessels.* How then can oxygen be absorbed there? They say the change of color proves the absorption. A similar effect is observed, when blood out of the body is exposed in a moist bladder to the air, but we cannot suspect that the air is absorbed through the bladder. For if so, why does not a similar appearance take place when the bladder is dry? Neither can it be better proved that heat\* is evolved from the air in the lungs, as the blood may be made alternately to assume the venous and arterial appearance, without any variation of temperature. But grant for a moment that heat were evolved, would this account for the circulation of the blood through the lungs? This would of course expand their vessels; but we have shown that their contraction is necessary to produce motion. Instead therefore of heat being generated in the lungs, it is taken away from them, and in proportion to the increase of action, and consequently of temperature from exercise, is the necessity of this abstraction. Thus we see animals, the ox and dog for instance, instinctively

\* We are sensible that heat is merely a sensation and that therefore, the use of the term is incorrect, but custom has so long fettered language as to make her shackles easy if not unavoidable.

endeavoring to increase this effect by hurried respiration, by lolling their tongues, and thus exposing increased surfaces to evaporation. Doctor Crawford has asserted from experiment, that the arterial requires more caloric than the venous blood to arrive at the same temperature, and the result seems to favor our hypothesis. The contraction of the vessels from evaporation may be considered as the efficient cause, likewise, of the change observed in the color. For what is color? It is not a substance. Is it not rather like *light*, a sensation belonging to the region of vision, whose varieties are dependent upon those minute arrangements of the particles of bodies, which determine their different powers of reflection and refraction? The sense of touch is so exquisite in some that the color may even be determined by it. This proves we think incontestably that a variety in the texture attends, if it do not cause, the change of color. That celebrated philosopher and naturalist, the late Abbe Spallanzani, asserts that dead animal matter effects the same change in the qualities of the air, which it was supposed the peculiar property of respiration to produce. He observes that this operation is more slowly performed with the dead animal, but this variation may be conceived to depend upon the difference of evaporation, bodies at rest not exposing the same variety of surface as those in motion. The result of the Abbe's experiment,



and the conviction of our own judgment, warrant us therefore to infer, that the absorption or decomposition of oxygen, cannot be an efficient cause either of animal heat, or even of the red color of the blood.

The function of respiration then is to originate, and maintain a certain motion of the animal fibre essential to vitality, and the effect is produced by the contraction from evaporation, excited by atmospheric air, which from its particular composition, and the easy and various change of its application, is peculiarly fitted for this purpose.

Having thus far explained our ideas on the process of respiration, we shall offer a few brief remarks on the causes and effects of its suspension. Reflection and observation on the subject have conspired to convince us, that much depends on the mode by which this is produced, and the situation of the subject at the moment of the accident. For the chance of success in our attempts to resuscitate, cannot be calculated by the duration of the suspension, nor by any appearance or circumstance hitherto observed. The instinctive love of life prompts the irresistible effort to avoid the threatening danger—the action becomes convulsive and mechanical, and thus death is hastened by the endeavor to escape it. The derangement which is thus produced forms, we conceive, the grand obstacle to resuscitation. The various appearances which the lungs after

sudden death exhibit, will not enable us to determine the immediate cause of their suspended action. In some subjects they appear expanded, as after a full inspiration, in others, contracted, as after expiration. In either case there is no mechanical obstruction to the blood, as we may judge from analogy with the stomach and other hollow organs, and as is we think abundantly proved by the equability of the arterial pulsations. The efficient cause then of their loss of action cannot be found in their expansion, or contraction; neither will the idea of the want of stimulating quality in the blood explain the phenomenon, for the left heart is not distended, and black blood is found in the aorta. But notwithstanding these objections, the various hypotheses they oppose were said to be founded upon actual experiment and observation. This mortifying fact cannot fail to induce us to examine with caution, and never to receive, with implicit faith, those results, which are at variance with the principles of reason and philosophy.

Air becomes unfit for respiration by its combination with the exhaling vapor of the lungs. Is it then necessary to suppose its decomposition, or that its essential principle is absorbed there? Respiration thus generates its own poison, for it is a fact that air once respired becomes as certainly deleterious as mephitic gasses of any other production. Futile then at least, even if it



were possible, must be the expedient which authority has sanctioned, of inflating the lungs in our attempts to resuscitate with the noxious breath of man. But we have no idea that this exhaled matter is a specific poison, which is necessarily excreted, because its longer delay would be injurious to the system. It is merely an evaporation from the surface, generated at the moment of its escape, dependent upon that mobility of the fibres, which it thus assists in preserving, and is an effect which all bodies exposed to the atmosphere in some measure experience. In the diffidence of conjecture, would we here suggest our ideas. We have observed that the vital action is maintained through the medium of atmospheric air, by the successive and alternate contractions, which its various application occasions. These contractions, when in due degree, excite that reaction of the animal fibre which constitutes vital vibration. If there be no contraction, there can be no motion, and if the contraction be excessive, even mobility is destroyed. If air be inspired, which imparts rather than receives the expansive principle, no contraction can be produced. Hydrogen or inflammable gas, we conceive, may operate by such a property. This gas we know to be specifically light, and we observe, that the state of the barometer influences respiration. Carbonic acid gas, or fixable air, on the contrary, abstracts so imme-

diately and forcibly the vital flame, that the reaction of the system is at once destroyed. We may remark its analogous effect in ignition. In a vacuum, or when the spasm of the glottis precludes the admission of air into the trachea, motion and respiration are suspended for evaporation, and consequently contraction cannot take place. Thus do we account for the phenomena attending the different kinds of asphyxia, whatever may be the apparent cause of their production. Animation as well as respiration may be said to be suspended when that motion upon which it depends is destroyed. In our endeavors then to resuscitate, the principle should be kept in view that there can be no vital motion without mobility, and that the criterion of vital mobility is the animal temperature. In proportion as this is diminished, must we endeavor to restore it by the gradual communication of heat. If it be communicated too fast the body is not affected, the particles at the surface only lose their cohesion, and assume different forms. Like the melting of an icicle, whose surface is continually dissolving while the centre remains unaffected. When arrived at the happy standard, then should the stimulants exciting contraction and motion be applied. Perhaps one reason of our infrequent success in resuscitation, may be the application of the exciting powers before mobility was restored, whereby the parts receive an inju-



ry which the feeble commencement of vital action is unable to remedy. It is a curious fact, not generally observed, that in the different asphyxiæ, bodies lose their heat in the inverse proportion of their constitutional vigor in health. This may in some measure account for the various success which attends resuscitating processes.

The different and contradictory methods recommended by authors for the restoration of animation, seem to warrant the conclusion that they were dictated by no particular theory. We were to attempt every thing by turns, but nothing long. Emetics, fumigations and venesections, have co-operated with the disease which they were vainly expected to remedy, and the vital spark which nature was about to cover with the embers of preservation, has been extinguished by the rude hand of ill-directed assistance.

But from the laudable spirit of inquiry, which institutions like yours have stimulated, a more rational and philosophical view of the science of life, will soon be more generally diffused. Then it will not be supposed exclusively to belong to any profession to dictate that method, which experience and common sense will teach us all to pursue. Then will medicine be unveiled of its mystery, and its professors throw aside the false colors which disgrace them. Science will descend from her eminences, and wisdom be our common birthright. Indulging thus our vener-



ation and respect for the feelings and principles which originated your excellent institution, shall we be pardoned for suggesting a wish that a wider range were opened for the exertion of your beneficence. Civilized man, educated in habits which teach him to feel a mutual dependence on his fellow, instinctively stretches out the protecting hand in sudden and unexpected calamity, the impulse of the moment effects all, and reflection comes but to approve. We will not suspect that this feeling, which should be our pride, will be destroyed; but if it be of itself sufficient to produce the happy effects we wish, can you not appropriate some of your honors and rewards to stimulate that deliberate benevolence to others, which the selfish mind of man is generally so unwilling to exert. You applaud and reward the successful effort which saved the life of a fellow being—you look no further—you wish to know no more, for the ostensible purpose of your institution is completed. But who is the distressed object that is thus snatched from a peaceful grave? May it not be some houseless wanderer, long since a burthen to himself and society, or perhaps some wretched maniac, to whose disordered sense existence has no charm. And to what are they restored? to the same poverty and wretchedness from which their kinder fate was about to release them. Are you then their benefactors if you leave them thus, or ra-

ther are you the benefactors of society, for its advantage must be the eventual criterion of your services. We feel both pleasure and pride in observing that in this view of our subject we have been anticipated by a much respected and much regretted Divine, who, in the peculiar accents of his eloquence, has wished to direct your benevolence to the alleviation of living wretchedness. Although perhaps the particular evils be depicted, do not now in so great a degree exist, yet still there are miseries unmitigated—there is poverty which suffering in silence, must be relieved in secret—there are orphans which the fair hand of charity has excluded from her otherwise liberal bounty—the innocent victims of crimes, which had been with unblushing impunity committed. Pity, that the garb of distress should not ever be a passport to the feeling heart. But there is one class of suffering humanity which we conceive has irresistible claims upon your benevolence. It would certainly be worthy your institution to endeavor, by some salutary expedient, to preserve those, whom a moment of indiscretion has condemned to perpetual infamy ; whose return to virtue is cut off by the imperious fiat of opinion ; and who seek a variety of vice, as the only alternative of existence. “The world is not their friend nor the world’s law,” what tie is there then to bind them to society. Consider us not as the advocates of vice

while we mean only to denounce those laws and customs which tend to produce it. With proper diffidence, though with real sincerity, have we suggested our ideas on this subject ; and we cannot but indulge the hope that they may sometime become, through you, the humble means of decreasing the sum of human wretchedness. Thus will you in reality be the benefactors of society, for you will restore its individuals not only to life, but to happiness and virtue.



*The author has studiously avoided to embellish his discourse by apt quotation or splendid reference, but he feels it his duty in this place to acknowledge generally his many obligations to a respected friend and professional instructor,\* whose comprehensive views, in science and philosophy, are equalled only by the wish and endeavor more widely to extend their advantages.*

\* Samuel Danforth, M. D.



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## Appendix:



### COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS.

*In the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and ninety one.*

An Act to incorporate and establish a Society by the Name of the HUMANE SOCIETY of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

*WHEREAS it is the duty of Government at all times, to countenance and support its citizens, in their exertions for alleviating the distresses of their fellow-men: And whereas divers persons have petitioned this Court, for an act of incorporation, whereby they may more effectually carry into execution their benevolent design:*

*Be it therefore enacted, by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, That the Hon. Thomas Russell, Esq. Jonathan Mason, Esq. John Warren, M. D. Rev. Simeon Howard, D. D. Rev. Samuel Parker, D. D. John Avery, jun. Esq. Rev. John Lathrop, D. D. Rev. Peter Thacher, Rev. John Clark, Doctor Thomas Welsh, Aaron Dexter, M. D. and*

Mr. Nathaniel Balch, together with all those who now are, and such others who shall become members thereof, be, and they are hereby erected into, and made a body politic, corporate forever, by the name of the Humane Society of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

*And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That* the said Corporation are hereby declared and made capable in law, of having, holding, purchasing and taking in fee-simple, or any less estate, by gift, grant, devise or otherwise, any lands, tenements or estate, real and personal; (provided that the annual income of said real and personal estate, shall not exceed the sum of *four thousand pounds*) —and also to sell, alien, devise or dispose of the same estate, real and personal, not using the same in trade or commerce.

*And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That* the said Corporation shall have full power and authority to make, have and use a common seal, and the same to break, alter and renew at pleasure; that it shall be capable in law to sue and be sued, plead and be impleaded, answer and be answered unto, defend and be defended, in all actions real, personal and mixed, and to do and execute all and singular other matters and things, that to them shall, and may appertain to do.

*And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That* the said Corporation may make, establish and put in execution, such laws and regulations as may be necessary to the government of said Corporation, provided the same shall in no case be repugnant to the laws and constitution of this state. And for the well governing of the said Corporation, and the ordering their affairs, they shall have such officers as they shall hereafter from time to time, elect and appoint; and such officers, as shall be designated by the laws and regulations of the said Corporation for the purpose, shall be capable of exercising such power

for the well governing and ordering the affairs of the said Corporation, and calling and holding such occasional meetings for that purpose, as shall be fixed and determined by the said laws and regulations.

*And be it further enacted by the authority aforesaid, That the end and design of the institution of the said Society, is for the recovery of persons, who meet with such accidents as produce in them the appearance of death, and for promoting the cause of humanity, by pursuing such means from time to time, as shall have for their object, the preservation of human life, and the alleviation of its miseries.*

*And be it further enacted, That the place where the first meeting of the said Society shall be held, shall be the town of Boston; and that the Hon. Thomas Russell, Esq. be, and he hereby is authorized and empowered to fix the time for holding the said meeting, and to notify the same to the members of the said Society, by causing the same to be published in one of the Boston newspapers, fourteen days before the time fixed on for holding the said meeting.*

In the House of Representatives, February 21, 1791.  
This Bill having had three several readings, passed to be enacted.

DAVID COBB, Speaker.

In Senate, February 23, 1791.

This Bill having had two several readings, passed to be enacted.

SAMUEL PHILLIPS, President.

By the Governor,

Approved,

JOHN HANCOCK.

Attest,

JOHN AVERY, jun. Sec.



The INSTITUTION of the HUMANE SOCIETY of the COMMONWEALTH of MASSACHUSETTS.

FROM a variety of faithful experiments, and incontestible facts, it is now considered as an established truth, that the total suspension of the vital functions in the animal body is by no means incompatible with life, and consequently the marks of apparent death may subsist, without any necessary implication of an absolute extinction of the animating principle. The boundary line between life and death, or the distinguishing signs of the latter, are objects to which the utmost efforts of the human capacity have never yet attained. Nor can we with any degree of certainty, pronounce that an animal is dead, until the most unequivocal proofs of putrefaction, have been furnished. From these facts it might reasonably be expected, that were proper measures to be adopted, especially in cases peculiarly doubtful, we might frequently be enabled to restore to full life, and the enjoyment of it, a beloved friend, or valuable member of society. And indeed numerous successful instances might be adduced in the cases of persons, who would in a few hours have been consigned to an untimely grave, and perhaps have suffered the horrors of inevitable death, attended with a consciousness of their own terrible situation. It is not, however, to be understood, that any process directed to the above mentioned purpose can be equally applicable to all cases : for as the attempt must presuppose an entire state of the vital organs, it is obvious that those apparent deaths, which are consequent upon disease, afford in general, little or no encouragement for such attempts. But in most cases of sudden death, the vital organs appear to have sustained but a very slight injury, and only require



a seasonable excitement of the heart to renew their action.

The exquisite feelings attendant on the unexpected restoration of an affectionate friend, or an indulgent parent, a dutiful child, or an intimate companion of our bosoms, after having been suddenly torn from us, and, in imagination numbered with the dead, may be more easily conceived than described, nor is the acquisition of one deserving member of society an object unworthy the public attention.

Upon these considerations, Societies have been formed in various parts of Europe, for promoting attempts to recover persons from apparent death, especially in cases of suffocation and drowning. The Humane Society established in Great Britain, in 1774, has been very successful. Within ten years from its institution, out of 1304 persons apparently dead, from drowning, 790 have been restored to their friends and country :\* Many of them, no doubt, useful and valuable men. For an institution of this nature a considerable fund is necessary, and many occasional expenses will unavoidably occur. The cause of humanity, however, deserves every encouragement. And to promote that cause it is to be hoped the benevolent will liberally subscribe. For these salutary purposes the Legislature of this Commonwealth, by their act passed the last session, have been pleased to incorporate a Society, by the Name of the HUMANE SOCIETY of the *Commonwealth of Massachusetts*, with ample powers ; and the following regulations and arrangements are submitted, by the society, to the inspection of the public.

\* *By the annual Report of 1803, it appears, that 2798 Lives have been preserved and restored, since the establishment of the Royal Humane Society.*

RULES for the REGULATION of the *HUMANE SOCIETY* of the *Commonwealth of Massachusetts*, instituted in the Town of *Boston*, for the recovery of persons, who meet with such accidents as produce in them the appearance of death, and for promoting the cause of humanity, by pursuing such means, from time to time, as shall have for their object the preservation of human life, and the alleviation of its miseries.

## I.

That the officers of the society shall consist of a number of Trustees, not exceeding twelve, of whom one shall be President, two Vice Presidents, one Treasurer, one Recording Secretary and one Corresponding Secretary.

## II.

That the society shall meet twice every year, viz. on the second Tuesday in *December*, and the second Tuesday in *June*; but that the President, with the advice of the Trustees, shall be empowered to call a meeting whenever the business of the society shall require it.

## III.

That the President and Trustees shall be annually elected, by ballot, on the second Tuesday in *December*.

## IV.

That the Recording Secretary shall keep a fair copy of all the votes and proceedings of the society, and record all such cases and communications as the Trustees shall direct.

## V.

That the Corresponding Secretary shall write all letters relating to the business of the society, and shall write answers to all such letters as the society shall receive, they being previously communicated to the President and Trustees assembled.



## VI.

That the President and Trustees, a major part of whom shall constitute a quorum, shall, during the vacation between the semiannual meetings of the society, have the care and management of the concerns and funds of the society, regulate the mode of receiving the annual subscriptions, adjudge the premiums due agreeably to the rules of the society, and no monies shall be paid by the Treasurer without their order, signed by the President, or, in his absence, by the Vice-President.

## VII.

All property belonging to the society, whether by donation, or otherwise, shall be held in the name of the society, and remain in the hands of the Treasurer, and in case of his death be delivered to the President, until a new Treasurer shall be chosen.

## VIII.

That any person desirous to become a member of this society, shall be nominated by a member of the same, to the Trustees, a majority of whom shall determine his election.

## IX.

Each member shall annually pay into the hands of the Treasurer, a sum not less than *one dollar and ten cents*, and any person refusing to pay for three years successively said sum, or his subscription, shall no longer be considered as a member of the society, and his name shall be erased from the catalogue.

## X.

That a catalogue of the members, with the sums they annually contribute, with the rules of the society, shall once in three years be published, and distributed among the members; together with an account of all donations received during said term, and such other papers as the Trustees shall think proper.

## XI.

That such gentlemen of the faculty, as shall engage to afford their assistance towards promoting the views of the society, shall do it gratis.

## XII.

That when any accident shall happen, producing apparent death, the person who shall first discover, and endeavour to recover the subject, shall be entitled to receive a sum not exceeding *ten dollars*, nor less than *one dollar*, to be paid in such manner as the Trustees shall think best.

## XIII.

That the Trustees be empowered to make such compensations as they shall think proper, to any one, who shall receive into his house the body of a person apparently dead, with a view that means may be used for his recovery.

## XIV.

That any person who shall, by a singular exertion, save another from death, shall receive a sum not exceeding *ten dollars*, to be paid in such manner as the trustees shall think proper.

## XV.

That the Trustees shall appoint some person to deliver a public discourse on the second Tuesday of *June* every year, upon some subject connected with the principal objects of this society, and that there be a collection, for the benefit of the Society, upon that day.\*

## XVI.

That the Treasurer shall annually exhibit his accounts to the Society, and whensoever the funds of the said society will admit of a compensation for his services, that he shall give bonds to the society for the faithful performance of his trust.

\* *N. B. This part of the Rule has, by a vote of the Society, been dispensed with since 1798, till the present year.*

The President and Trustees may, at their discretion, at any monthly meeting, admit such persons as honorary members of this Society, as will in their opinion, have a tendency to add respectability to the society, or be the means of promoting its benevolent intentions, provided that such persons are not inhabitants of this Commonwealth, and the votes of three fourths of the Trustees are in favor of such admission; any thing in the ninth article to the contrary notwithstanding.

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The SOCIETY have received the following COMMUNICATIONS, since their last Publication.

## I.

*Letter from William Hawes, M. D. Register of the Royal Humane Society in London, to the Corresponding Secretary.*

LONDON, Spital Square, Aug. 22, 1803.

DR. DOCT.

IT is productive of an abundant pleasure to be enabled to send you the various publications for 1803; in order to be presented to the President, Treasurer and Trustees of the Mass. Humane Society; as an abundant harvest on so interesting a subject as the sublime cause of Resuscitation; and the progressive success of the Royal Humane Society.

*Bishop Gloucester's Anniversary Sermon.*

*Annual Report for 1803.*

*The Philanthropist.*

*An Epitome of Lives Restored.*

*Reflections on Resuscitation.*

*The Marine Spencer, &c.*

I rely with the utmost confidence upon the candour and indulgence of the Trustees, in perusing my Annual Report, the Epitome, &c. they will consider it merely as



the *Anniversarium Donum* to engage the attention of benevolent characters, so as to foster, encourage, and promote the Royal H. S. ; it must likewise be granted by every reader of discernment, that the publication abundantly proves to the civilized world, the victory of enlightened reason over prejudice and incredulity.

The learded and philosophic Dr. Struve of Gonlidzin, in Lusatia, observes, "that the R. Humane S. published in its Annual Reports, an account of all instances, in which the benevolent purposes of its institution have been attained, thus not only satisfying the nation of the utility of its efforts, but by the display of its success animating individuals of every nation to pursue its life saving views, and to employ in the most desperate cases of suspended animation, the judicious methods, it so wisely recommends :"

*Extremus si quis super halitus errat.*

The opinions both of the antients and the moderns concerning the Resuscitative art, were vague and delusive, instead of enlarging, they contracted the powers of the human mind, and involved in obscurity a subject peculiarly adapted to call forth every noble, every benevolent principle. To this cause may be ascribed the premature destruction of thousands, whose preservation would have reflected the highest lustre upon the human character.

Within the last fifty years, men of an enlarged and philosophic cast of mind have turned their attention to this most important subject ; and have answered by arguments unanswered and unanswerable, that the spark of life which appeared to be extinct, by the godlike exertions of the Medical Assistants, may be fanned into a glorious flame.

It is, Sir, a most pleasing reflection, that the Resuscitative Art is prosecuted with a zeal and ardor suited to the infinite importance of the subject. Its benefits are not confined to the short period of our existence.

*Et nati natorum, et qui nascentur ab illis*, will be convinced that the restoration of our fellow creatures is a subject eminently calculated to soothe the anxieties incident to our mortal state, and to fill the mind with the most enlarged conceptions.

I have delayed sending the Annual Report in order to present you and the Trustees with the Bishop of Gloucester's learned and excellent Sermon, as well as various collateral smaller matters which have been printed at different times, in conducting the occasional public business of the Royal Humane Society.

The Anniversary of an excellent Institution, the Literary Fund, was celebrated last May, and an ingenious appropriate Address on Universal benevolence was admirably recited. With pleasure I make the following brief extract, it being strongly applicable to our Life Saving Society.

*"Sweet Charity like Venus mid'st the waves,  
Thou walk'st in beauty o'er the wat'ry graves,  
And teaching man the Promethean Art,  
Bring'st fire from heaven or wak'st it in his heart."*

It is probable that the vast distance between our advancing years, and important pursuits in life, will be an insuperable obstacle to a personal knowledge of each other, but it is a singular happiness that the Almighty has favored us with health and spirits, so as to enjoy the friendly correspondence of philanthropists amongst our Trans-Atlantic brethren. May all those who devote their talents to individual happiness and public benefit, long enjoy the excellent pleasure annexed to every virtuous exertion : and I cannot more happily express my good wishes for the Mass. Humane Society, than in the emphatic language of the celebrated Father Paul :

*"Esto perpetua."*

Your's most respectfully,

Wm. HAWES.



*To the Trustees of the Humane Society.*

Griffin Barney, foreman of a Rope-Walk, represents, that on Tuesday afternoon of the 9th of August, he saw a number of boys at the Bottom of Jeffery and Russell's Rope-Walk playing near the water; soon after one of them cryed out, that a boy was drowning; that he immediately run down to the water side, and took a small boat and went out to some distance, where the water was between 7 and 8 feet in depth, he there saw the boy laying at the bottom where he had been about 7 or 8 minutes, that immediately he plunged himself into the water with all his cloaths on, and took up the boy, the son of Mr. Norcross a Painter, apparently lifeless, and carried him on shore, and that such means were used, under the direction of Dr. Danforth, that his senses were restored to him in about 3 hours.

*Boston, Aug. 19, 1803.*

GRIFFIN BARNEY.

N. B. *The Trustees voted Mr. Barney a Gold Medal for the above exertion, and it was presented to him by Dr. Parker.*

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*Rev'd. Dr. Lathrop,*

BOSTON, 31st, OCT. 1803.

ON the 10th inst. as a lad, by the name of Ephraim Davis, apprentice to a Capt. Snow, was passing in a boat from a sch., then riding at anchor in the stream opposite to Col. J. May's Wharf, at the north part of the town, the oar, with which he was attempting to scull the boat, slipped from its place, and the lad, losing his balance fell overboard. In this situation with all his sea clothes on, and not being, (as I was afterwards told) a good swimmer, he cried out for help in a manner that not only arrested the attention, but interested the feelings of all, who either heard or saw him. And endeavours were imme-

diately used to get a boat from the neighbouring wharves and vessels to save him. But as none could be got ready as soon as the exigency required, a Mr. John C. Barnes, Mate of the ship *Nancy*, Capt. Doak, lying at Col. May's Wharf, then at work on board his vessel, instantly threw himself into the water, with all his cloathes on, and at the hazard of his own life, pushed forward, with all speed, to his assistance, and fortunately reached him in season to rescue him from a watery grave—as the lad was so far exhausted as to be no longer able to sustain himself above water, having his head sunk below the surface once, or twice, before Mr. Barnes seized him.—In this situation he buoyed him up until a boat came along, and he was lifted in almost spent. To this I was not only a near eye-witness, but Col. May and many others.

As instances of such ready and efficient humanity do honour to our nature, so they ought not to pass unnoticed, or unrewarded. The benevolent institution of which you are a Trustee, having, among other objects, been principally established to patronize and encourage exertions for the preservation of life—and as a knowledge of this noble action and its reward, may excite others to emulation; and especially, as its author is a foreigner, (a Prussian or Dane as I understand) it may not only have a happy influence in an individual, but national view; I could not resist the pleasure of representing the case, thro' you, to the Humane Society; and of recommending Mr. Barnes to their notice and remuneration.

Any honorary, or pecuniary premium, which the society may think proper to adjudge him, I shall be happy in communicating to him. In mean time,

I am, Rev'd. Sir,

very respectfully,

Your obed't. serv't.

THOS. PAYSON.

*A Gold Medal was voted by the Trustees and also their thanks to Mr. John C. Barnes and presented to him by Rev'd. Dr. Parker.*

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*To the Corresponding Secretary of the Humane Society at Boston,*

PORTSMOUTH, N. H. 10th April, 1804.

SIR,

THE following narrative is designed to give an honorable testimony to the humane, bold, and hazardous enterprise of a number of men belonging to the lower part of Kittery, in the District of Maine, who, under Providence, were the mean of saving three of their fellow-creatures from death.

A little after sunrise, on Monday, the thirty-first of October, 1803, a sloop laden with firewood and spars, from Belfast and bound to Boston, was cast upon her beam ends in a violent gale.

This misfortune happened at the distance of about one mile and a half, in a southeastern direction, from York harbor. The people on board, consisting of four men and a woman, were about betaking themselves to their boat, as the most probable expedient of saving their lives, when a spar fell upon her and disabled her, so that she was instantly filled with water, and was soon out of sight. Their dernier resort was the landyards and shrouds of the wreck, upon which they were all so fortunate as to get. In this deplorable situation they were driven, for several hours, in a line nearly parallel with the shore, the wind being at northeast by north, and expected every moment to be their last, as the waves repeatedly broke over the wreck.

Bray Cox, who lives at the westward of Brave Boat harbor, a mile or more from the water, saw the sloop



from his house, when she was overset. He went directly to the shore where he discovered people on the wreck. It was impossible to go from that place, at such a boisterous time, in any craft, to their relief. Cox, wishing to do all in his power to save these poor creatures, walked hastily on to Kittery point, three miles and a half from his house, the way he went, in order to find a vessel, adequate to the purpose, in a situation more favorable for embarking. He first fell in with a number of men, who were at work in the new school-house, which is nearly a quarter of a mile from major Thomas D. Cutts' tavern, the antient mansion of the late Sir William Pepperell. He gave them information of the people in distress, and requested that immediate exertions might be made for their deliverance. He then passed on to Cutts' tavern, where he found William Seaward and others, to whom he made known his benevolent object. Seaward was the owner of one half and master of the fishing schooner, Favorite, which, at that time, happened to be at anchor in Pepperell's Cove.

Here it should be observed that she was entirely without ballast, and therefore far from being in a suitable condition to encounter the dangers of such a tempestuous sea. Besides, no time could be spared to obtain the consent of the other owner for adventuring the schooner. **WHAT THOU DOEST DO QUICKLY** is a direction of infinite importance, when we would extend the arm of compassion to a fellow-creature, just ready to perish with the buffetings of the wind and waves.

Not hesitating on account of the blame, which might possibly accrue from want of the other owner's permission, or of the danger, to which the unballasted vessel, as well as their lives, might be exposed, William Seaward, Bray Cox, Benjamin Mitchel, Ambrose Perkins, Darius Frisbie, Samuel Willams, and Josiah Williams repaired to

the Favorite, unmoored, and set sail.

In the meantime, in consequence of the information and the request at the schoolhouse, Thomas Phillips, Samuel Hall, David Lewis, James Mitchel, Samuel Mitchel Perkins, and Andrew Tobey went to Chauncy's Creek, took a whale-boat, and rowed off on the same generous design, without then knowing whether Cox had succeeded or not in procuring a vessel and crew. It afterwards appeared that the schooner and boat started about the same time.

The boat did not reach the unhappy sufferers probably under an hour, as she was obliged to stem the current for a considerable part of the distance. The schooner passed in sight of the boat, and got to them perhaps in one half of the time or less. As soon as the men in the schooner had sailed so far as to discover the people on the wreck, they hoisted their colors in order to excite and cherish hope in these objects of pity, and as a signal to the boat's crew to press on.

The schooner got up with the wreck at the distance of about three miles, from where she weighed anchor and in a southeast by east course from the rock, called WEST OF THE SISTERS. She sailed round the wreck and so near to it, as to speak to the distressed people and inform them that a whaleboat was coming to aid and give them relief.

It would have been a thing almost impossible for the schooner's boat to have lived in such a sea, if she had been hoisted out to take the people from the wreck. On the other hand, without the company and expected assistance of the schooner, the boat's crew would have been discouraged, in all probability, and would have returned without effecting the desired object.

When the whaleboat came up, she went round the wreck in order to ascertain the most favorable place for an approach. At length, watching the best opportunity



she made her advance so that the captain, John Lymburner, stepped out upon the rigging and was taken on board.

After three considerable swells, in time of a gale, it is observed that there usually follows, for a short space, a comparatively smooth sea.

The boat, having availed herself of such a sea to take off Lymburner, drew back, for ten or twelve minutes, waiting for a like advantageous chance, and rowed up a second time. Nathaniel Coval, attempting to go out, as the captain had done, fell, and was entangled in the rigging; but saved himself by seizing hold of it. Thomas Phillips reached forward and took him by the collar; Coval, not being sensible of what Phillips was doing, clung so firmly, that, in the endeavour to haul him in, the boat was forced under the rigging to the most imminent danger of the crew. In the tossings of the sea the mast and rigging were continually switched up and down, with violence, so that, the boat being in this critical situation, there was the utmost hazard. While in this extreme jeopardy, there were three seas; but as kind Providence ordered, the agitation was not sufficient to sink the boat, although her gunwale was almost immersed. By a vigorous and well timed exertion of Phillips the stem of the boat was cleared of the rigging. Almost at the same instant, there came a tremendous sea, which, if the boat had not been extricated, at that fortunate juncture, would no doubt, have completely buried it under water, and so these brave adventurers must, without the hope of escape, have perished in their generous labor of love.

Having rescued Lymburner and Coval from the jaws of death, they were generally determined not to return to the wreck, as they had so narrowly escaped with their own lives. They repaired to the schooner and all, except Phillips, left the boat. Such, however, was the pitiable situation of the remaining sufferers, that Samuel



Hall got into the boat again and with him Bray Cox, Benjamin Mitchel, and Ambrose Perkins, who shaped their course to the wreck. Having prudently taken a rope from the vessel, they went so as to throw it within the reach of the sufferers. James Clarke, a young man, who was so kind as to hold the woman in his arms, seized the rope ; but, while he held on with one hand, and attempted to tie it about her waist with the other, a sea forced her from him and she pitched down through the shrouds. He however caught her by her gown and prevented her from being swept away, till one or two seas had passed over, when, by direction of Phillips, he let her go and she was taken into the boat by the help of a gaff hooked into her clothes ; but, having been so long exposed to the wet and cold, and having been greatly bruised while hanging on the shrouds, she soon expired.

At the moment, they took the woman into the boat, a sea came, which carried her husband, Mr. Hill, from the wreck, and he was never seen again.

Clarke saw the necessity of getting out, as far as possible, on the shrouds, in order that the boat might take him in. When about midway, he was stretched at full length by the violence of a sea ; but, seizing the rigging, kept his hold while the men ventured up with their boat, and hooked a gaff into his jacket and so he was gotten safely on board.

Having entered the schooner, the people used what means in their power for the resuscitation of Mrs. Hill, but all was in vain.

The men, particularly Coval and Clarke, were much exhausted and almost helpless. The people undressed them and covered them up warm in their cabins. They immediately fell asleep, and, when they awoke, they could scarcely be made to realize that they were not still on the wreck.

Nothing could equal the gratitude of these three men

when thy found themselves liberated from impending ruin, unless it were *that* of those of their deliverers, who had escaped from danger not inferior to being on the wreck, and who had been the happy instrument, through divine mercy, of affording help more generous, than that of the good Samaritan.

These bold and benevolent adventurers, having succeeded almost to a miracle in taking these people from the wreck, endeavored to regain Pepperell's Cove ; but the wind and tide were against them. They then bore away for the Isles of Shoals, under a two reefed foresail, and entered Haley's Dock, about three in the afternoon. They were therefore on the water about six hours, and the unfortunate people were on the wreck about the same length of time. If it had been half ebb, they could not have gone into the abovementioned dock ; but must have been under the necessity of riding at anchor in the road, so called, where their situation would have been very disagreeable in such a blow.

They found a kind reception in the house of the aged Samuel Haley. The corpse was committed to the care of Mrs. Haley, who laid it out in decent order. Some of the humane adventurers made a coffin for the remains of the unfortunate woman.

They tarried at the Shoals till Tuesday, about sunset, when the wind had abated. In course of the night they made their passage to the Cove. In the morning of Wednesday the remains of Mrs. Hill were carried to major Cutt's tavern, where, in the afternoon, a numerous concourse of people assembled and usual funeral solemnities were performed. The three men saved from the wreck, first, and their deliverers, next, walked as mourners on the melancholy occasion.

The people of Kitterypoint, among whom the courageous adventurers were not the least forward, made a collec-



tion of money for the surviving sufferers, sufficient to defray their expenses home, and also supplied them with such garments as in consequence of their misfortune they needed.

It is important to mention the following circumstance before I conclude.

A certain man with a vessel from Belfast came up with the wreck, just at the time when the schooner and whale-boat were leaving Kitterypoint, and so near, that Lymburner knew his neighbor and called him by name. This neighbor lowered his sails and put about as if desirous of affording relief; but without speaking so much as one word to the distressed people, passed on directly to Piscataqua harbor! He afterwards said that, he was so affected at their situation, he could not speak to them, and he thought it totally unsafe to attempt their deliverance.

Conceive, Sir, of their feelings, when a neighbor could pass them in such a manner, whatever might have been the reason, and what must have been their sensations at the sight of strangers, with so much risque of their own lives, extending the arms of compassion?

I am, Sir, with sentiments of esteem for the sons of humanity, yours respectfully,

TIMOTHY ALDEN, Jun.

*The Trustees have presented Bray Cox Ten Dollars, and each of the other Persons five Dollars for their exertions in the above Case.*

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*Extract of a Letter from a gentleman at Stoughton, in the county of Norfolk, to his friend in this town, dated June 6, 1804.*

“ON Monday last, between the hours of eleven and twelve, A. M. we experienced a small shower, accompanied with considerable thunder and lightning. Previous to the shower, when the clouds had not much collected, and the thunder rolled only at a distance, we were alarmed with a sudden and tremendous peal, which seemed to



burst upon the house over our heads. Most of the family were extremely agitated, and my little daughter was fainting. After attending to her a few minutes, I went out, expecting to discover some effects of the lightning. I examined the house and out buildings, but made no discovery. Soon, however, I cast my eye towards the little thicket of houses near the meeting-house, where I observed a collection of people, in apparent commotion.—Apprehensive that some person might be injured, but unwilling to leave home, on account of the situation of some of the family, I sent a boy to make inquiry. He returned with the information that Mr. *Lewis Johnson* was struck with lightning, and supposed to be dead. I immediately ran to the place where he was (the distance being between forty and fifty rods,) on my arrival was told, that he was dead. I found that they had actually closed his eyes, and, as usual, were preparing to put on a bandage to support his jaw, which had fallen. They had sent for Dr. Adams; but he had not arrived. Recollecting to have seen an account of the efficacy of cold water, when applied to persons apparently killed with lightning, I caused a similar application to be made; which succeeded beyond my most sanguine expectations. A bucket of water was thrown upon him—it was repeated—he soon exhibited signs of life and began to gasp. At this moment the Doctor arrived and opened a vein in his arm. The application of cold water was still continued, and not less than six buckets were poured upon him. Symptoms of returning life increased. In about half an hour he spoke; and in an hour walked, with assistance, into the house. Complaining of extreme chilness, he was wrapped in flannel, and laid on a bed. From the moment of his resuscitation he was exercised with violent pains in the breast, back and limbs, and particularly in his joints. These pains continued, without intermission, during the day and following night. But being again bled, and taking cool-

ing physic, the pains, on Tuesday morning, began to abate, and have since continued gradually to decrease. He is now in a state of convalescence, though extremely feeble, and not intirely free from pain. The hair on the back part of his head was considerably singed, his skin in several places burnt, the shoe of his left foot rent in pieces ; but his clothes received no injury.

From the fact above stated it appears, that the copious application of cold water was the means, in the hand of Divine Providence, of rescuing Mr. Johnson from a premature grave, restoring to his family their head and support, and to society a useful member.

A Committee of the Trustees was appointed, May 3d, 1802, to make out a schedule of the Huts that have been erected by the Society for the preservation of shipwrecked seamen, their situation, and the expenses that have attended ; which Committee made a Report, of which the following is an abstract, and ordered by the Trustees to be published.

*Huts erected by the Humane Society.*

		<i>D. C.</i>
1787.	One on Scituate Beach,	} at 40 dols. 120 each.
Janu- ary.	One on the outer Beach of Nantasket,	
	One on west end of Lovell's Island,	
1789.	One on Calf's Island,	} 95
Dec.	One east end of Lovell's Island,	
	One on other end of Nantasket Beach,	
1792.	One on Stout's Creek on Cape Cod,	42 50
1793.	One on Brush Island, Cohasset,	
1794.	Two on the Island of Nantucket,	72
1799.	One on Pettick's Island,	50
		<hr/>
		379 50
1802.	The Repairs on said Huts, and supplying them with necessary articles, has cost the Society to the present time.	191 94



The Trustees of the Humane Society, having, in their private capacity, been informed of several instances of persons, who had incurred apparent death by drowning or otherwise, and been fortunately recovered by the means recommended by the Society, and no communication made thereof; and convinced that publishing the circumstances of such incidents would be attended with beneficial effects, hereby request the citizens of this commonwealth, and particularly the gentlemen in the medical line, to communicate to the Corresponding Secretary, all the instances that have, or shall come to their knowledge, of reanimation, and the means whereby those happy events are accomplished, with such other particulars of the time respiration was suspended, &c. as they shall think of importance to notice: As it is by comparing the success of different means and operations, that this important art can be brought to perfection. The Trustees are also desirous of extending the rewards promised by the Society for signal exertions throughout the commonwealth, and for this reason they request information of all the attempts of reanimation, even if they prove unsuccessful.

N. B. The Trustees request the same favour from the citizens of the neighbouring states.

*An Extract from the Minutes of said Trustees,*

JOHN AVERY, Rec'g. Sec'ry.

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*At a Meeting of the Humane Society, June 11th, 1799.*

THE Trustees of the Humane Society, having had frequent applications for reward in cases, for which the Constitution of said Society does not authorize their granting a Premium, wish their fellow-citizens to be informed, with a view to prevent fruitless applications, that the services for which said Society holds out a reward are,

First. That when any accident shall happen, producing apparent death, the person, who shall first discover and endeavour to recover the subject, shall be entitled to



a reward : but in no case are the Trustees allowed to exceed ten dollars.

Secondly. The person who shall receive into his or her house, the body of one apparently dead, with a view that means may be used for its recovery, is also entitled to such a compensation as the Trustees shall judge adequate.

Thirdly. That any person who shall, by any signal exertion, save another from death, is entitled to a reward in proportion to the risque and danger incurred.

By a signal exertion the Trustees conceive must be understood something more than barely reaching out the hand, or throwing a rope from a wharf, or a boat, or even wading into the water to half a man's depth, and rescuing a man from drowning ; for the principles of common humanity and sympathy are sufficient motives for such exertions ; but it must include the endangering his own life, or incurring some damage, by impairing the health, or injuring his apparel or other property. In any or all these cases the Trustees are ready to grant adequate reward, when properly authenticated, but do not think themselves warranted by the regulations of the Society to bestow them in other cases.

*An Extract from the Minutes of said Society,*

JOHN AVERY, Rec'g. Sec'ry.

*Premiums adjudged by the Trustees from June 1803 to June 1804.*

To Henry Bragdon for saving the life of Mr. Hatch, D. C. who fell from a small float in York River	8
George Bennett for saving the life of a Boy who fell from Swet's Wharf, - - -	1
Nathl. Davis for saving the life of Hugh Ram- say in Mystic River, - - -	10
Alexander Campbell for saving a Child, -	5
John Doyle for saving the life of John Hay who fell from a Raft near Chelsea Bridge,	5

Andrew Hadley and David Austin for saving the life of James Valentine 2 dollrs. 50 cents D. C. each, - - - - -	5
George Greenough for saving a Child who fell from Hooton's Wharf, - - - - -	5
Jacob Styles for saving a Child of Mr. John Smith's who fell from May's Wharf, - - - - -	5
Isaac Tailleurs for saving a Child at Hancock's Wharf, - - - - -	2
Griffin Barney for his signal exertions in saving the life of a Child of Mr. Norcross, who was lying at the bottom near Jeffery and Russell's Rope Walk, a Medal, - - - - -	8 94
John Barns for saving the life of Ephraim Da- vis, a Medal, - - - - -	9 89
Ephraim Hoskins for saving the life of a Son of Mrs. Farmer at Plymouth, - - - - -	10
Isaac B. Rich and Joshua Smith for saving the life of a man who fell into the dock near Bray's Wharf, - - - - -	12
Robert Hudgin for saving the life of a man who fell from Long Wharf, - - - - -	5
Moses Wadsworth for attempting to save the life of James Jackson, who fell through the ice in a Pond at Medfield, - - - - -	10
Peter Long, Jacob Long and Samuel Bailey for taking a newborn mulatto Child out of the water, - - - - -	4
Paul Davis for saving the life of Jonas Twist, who fell through the ice near Prison Point, - - - - -	10
William Brinton for saving the life of Thomas Hanson who fell from a vessel off the Long- Wharf, - - - - -	5
Elisha Abbot for saving two Children who fell from a Wharf near Charlestown Bridge, - - - - -	10
	<hr/> 130 83

Oliver Jordan for saving the Life of Wm. D. C.	
Cromby who fell from Snows Wharf	- 5
Bray Cox, 10 dolls. and the other persons	
mentioned in Rev. Mr. Alden's Narrative	5
dollars each,	- - - - - 70
	<hr/> 205 83

*Donation Received.*

A Legacy devised in the Will of John Bulkley, Esq. of Lisbon deceased, received by the hands of James Lloyd, junr. Esq.	444 44
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*State of the Treasurers Accounts for year past.*

Expenses of Semianual Meeting,	- - 10 10
Printing Rev'd. Mr. Gardner's Discourse, &c.	49
Stock purchased,	- - - - 1393 48
Premiums adjudged,	- - - - 130 83
Messenger of Society,	- - - - 30
Balance in Treasurers hands,	- - 151 21
	<hr/> 1764 62
By Balance in Treasurers hands at last audit.	121 23
By Legacy of John Bulkley, Esq.	- 444 44
By Int. on funded Stock and 2 pr. cent prin.	
6 per cent.	- - - 200 64
By Int. and 20 per cent prin. State Notes,	605 36
By Dividend at Union Bank,	- - 114 12
By Do. on 2 Shares West B. Bridge,	- 34 50
By Subscriptions,	- - - - 244 33
	<hr/> 1764 64

*Property in hands of the Treasurer belonging to the Society.*

United States 6 per cent Stock,	1442 17
deduct principal paid,	201 90 1240 27
Ditto. 3 per cent,	- - - 708 83
Ditto. 8 per cent, do.	- - - 800
Mass. State Notes,	- - - 2920 86
Union Bank Stock,	- - - 1268 86
2 Shares West-Boston Bridge, cost	417 17



We the Subscribers, appointed a Committee by the Humane Society of Mass. at their meeting in Decemr. 1803 to examine the Acco'ts of Rev. Dr. Parker, Treasurer of said Society, find all the Articles in the above account vouched, the same right cast, and a balance of one hundred fifty one dollars twenty-one cents, in the Treasurers hands due to the society and the evidence of the property before enumerated.

WILLIAM TUDOR,  
RUSSELL STURGIS,  
JNO. HANCOCK, } Committee

*At the semiannual meeting of the Humane Society, June 12, 1804  
Voted that the above Report be accepted.*

State of Malden Bridge Fund,	D.	C.
To 318 27 deferred Stock purchased,	210	11
To 5 per cent Stock, do. - -	75	64
To 4 Assessments laid by Proprietors of Malden Bridge to build one half Chelsea Bridge, 220		

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505 75

By 6, 3 and 5 per cent Stock, Union Shares and Cash receiv'd of former Treasurer amounting to £51 3 2, - -	170	51
By Dividends on Malden Bridge, Int. of Stock, &c. &c. - - - -	214	4
By Balance due to the Treasurer, -	21	20

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505 75

Belonging to said Fund		
Deferred 6 per cent Stock of United States, 334 58		
1 Share Malden Bridge cost Mr. Russell the donor - - - -	140	
10 Shares Chelsea Bridge, - -	220	

*June 9, 1804, The Subscribers as a Committee of the Humane Society certify that the above Acco't. is well vouched and right cast, and that there is a balance due to the Treasurer of twenty-one dollars twenty cents.*

Wm. TUDOR,  
RUSSELL STURGIS,  
JNO. HANCOCK, } Committee.

*Officers of the Humane Society, chosen Dec. 1803.*

John Warren, M. D. President,  
Rev. Simeon Howard, D. D. 1st Vice President,  
Rev. John Lathrop, D. D. 2d Vice President,  
\* Rev. Samuel Parker, D. D. Treasurer,  
Aaron Dexter, M. D. Corresponding Secretary,  
John Avery, Esq. Recording Secretary.

*Trustees.*

Nathaniel Balch, Esq.  
Jeremiah Allen, Esq.  
William Spooner, M. D.  
Samuel Parkman, Esq.  
James Scott, Esq.  
Edward Gray, Esq.

CATALOGUE OF THE MEMBERS OF THE HUMANE SOCIETY.

*Names and Places of abode.*

EXCELLENCY JOHN ADAMS, ESQ. *late President of the  
United States, Quincy.*

Jeremiah Allen, Esq.  
Mr. William Allen, ,  
Mr. Thomas Amory,  
Mr. Thomas C. Amory,  
Mr. Jonathan Amory, jun.  
John Andrews, Esq.  
Mr. James Andrews,  
Mr. John Trecothick Apthorp,  
John Avery, Esq.  
Jonathan L. Austin, Esq.

Adam Babcock, Esq.  
Nathaniel Balch, Esq.  
Loammi Baldwin, Esq. *Woburn.*  
Mr. Luke Baldwin, *Brookfield,*

\* *Rev. Dr. Parker having resigned the office of Treasurer  
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## APPARENT DEATH—LIFE RESTORED.

“ He sinks !—is lost !—none near to give relief !  
 “ And hark—that scream !—a frantic mother’s grief !  
 “ Fix’d on the flood that would her babe destroy,  
 “ Her eager eye deep searches for her boy ;  
 “ He’s found !—but ah ! when anxious drawn to shore,  
 “ The mother breathless !—views her child—no more !  
 “ But, Heav’n-instructed—every effort’s try’d  
 “ Which Wisdom plann’d, and Study has supply’d,  
 “ Eager to save, each panting bosom burns ;  
 “ Life half departed, ’s beckon’d, and returns :  
 “ What rapt’rous bliss the eager mind receives,  
 “ When parent Extacy exclaims—*He lives*”

## RESUSCITATIVE PROCESS.

What thou doest—do quickly.

*Occidit, qui non servat.*

CONVEY the person to the nearest convenient house, with his head raised : Strip and dry him as quick as possible ; clean the mouth and nostrils from froth and mud. If a child, let him be placed between two persons naked, in a hot bed. If an adult, lay him on a hot blanket or bed, and, in cold weather, near a fire—In warm weather, the air should be freely admitted into the room. The



body is next to be gently rubbed with warm woollen cloths sprinkled with spirits, if at hand, otherwise dry : A heated warming-pan may be now lightly moved over the back, properly covered with a blanket—and the body, if of a child, is to be gently shook every few minutes : Whilst these means are using, one or two assistants are to be employed in blowing up tobacco-smoke into the fundament, with the instrument provided for the purpose, or a tobacco-pipe, if that cannot be had—the bowl filled with tobacco and properly lighted, being covered with a handkerchief, or piece of linen, so as to defend the mouth of the assistant in blowing : Bathe the breast with hot rum, and persist in the use of these means for several hours. If no signs of life should then appear, let the body be kept warm several hours longer, with hot bricks, or vessels of hot water, applied to the palms of the hands, and soles of the feet, and this for a longer or shorter time, as the circumstances of the case may dictate.

The too customary method of rolling on a barrel, suspending by the feet, and every other violent mode of agitation, particularly in removing the body from the water, should be most carefully avoided.

To restore breathing—Introduce the pipe of a bellows, (when no apparatus is at hand) into one of the nostrils, the other, and mouth being closed, *inflate the lungs*, till the breast is a little raised ; the mouth and nostrils must then be let free.

Repeat this process till life appear.

Electricity is recommended to be early employed by judicious Practitioners.

#### INTENSE COLD.

Rub the body with snow, ice or cold water ; restore warmth by slow degrees, and after some time, if there be no appearance of life, the plans of resuscitation for the drowned must be employed.

## SUSPENSION BY THE CORD.

A few ounces of blood may be taken from the jugular vein, cupping-glasses applied to the head and neck, and bleeding at the temples. The other methods of treatment, the same as recommended for the apparently drowned.

## INTOXICATION.

The body to be laid on a bed, with the head a little raised; the neckloth, &c. removed.

Obtain immediate *medical assistance*, as the modes of treatment must be varied according to the circumstances of the patient.

## SUFFOCATION BY NOXIOUS VAPOURS, OR LIGHTNING.

Cold water to be repeatedly thrown upon the face, &c. drying the body at intervals. If the body feels cold employ gradual *warmth*: and the plans for restoring the drowned, in all cases of apparent death.

## GENERAL OBSERVATIONS.

## RESUSCITATION.

On the *dawn* or first indication of returning life, the prudent Practitioner will resign the office of *Art to Nature*. It is evident that *Art* has contributed her share by enabling *Nature* to struggle with the immediate cause of oppression.

It is in fact this judicious blending of *Nature* with *Art*, that gives to the latter all its efficacy.

## 1.—ON SIGNS OF RETURNING LIFE.

A tea-spoonful of warm water may be given; and, if swallowing be returned, warm wine, or diluted brandy. The patient must be in a warm bed and if disposed to sleep, they will generally awake perfectly restored.

2.—The plans above recommended are to be used three or four hours.



*It is an absurd and vulgar opinion to suppose persons irrecoverable, because life does not soon make its appearance.*

3.—Bleeding never to be employed, unless by the direction of a Physician.

## REFLECTIONS ON REANIMATION.

Suppose yourselves but for a few moments in your evening walk of rural retirement, imagine your contemplations interrupted by an uncommon appearance,—Behold a young man dragged to the shore without life or motion.

Scarce an hour has passed since the object of their attention had left his circle of domestic happiness.—And now his body swoln, his eyes sunk, and his face livid. Without the least signs of life, they convey him in *hopeless despondence* to his own home. Fear, despondency, and horror, are spread over the afflicted family. On one side behold the *aged mother* lamenting her lost child; on the other stands mute the *distracted wife*, afraid to look up to the horrid spectacle; whilst the *innocent little ones* look with amazement and wonder at the silence of him who always so kindly greeted them on his return.

Those who would most gladly take upon them the task of restoration are most unable to perform it; and all the precious moments which should have been employed in the means of his recovery, are lost in fruitless lamentation. They hang over him in silent anguish, take their last farewell in the agonies of despair, and consign him to the grave.

And now observe the change. It chances that one of *the sons of humanity* (which is but another name for this institution) is passing by.—As soon as he hears of the event, he flies, like the *Good Samaritan*, to the chamber of sorrow; he stops those who had assembled but to gaze at and desert him, calls on them to assist him, and assid-



uously applies with zeal proper means to resuscitate. *Death*, unwilling to relinquish his devoted prey, struggles powerfully to detain it ; seems to smile, as it were, at the ineffectual labour ; till at length subdued by *fortitude* and *perseverance* he gives up the contest.

“A ray of hope breaks in upon the gloom, and lights up every countenance.—Behold, at last, again he moves, he breathes, he lives.—What follows is *not* within the power of language to describe : *imagination* alone can suggest to true *Philanthropists* the delightful scene of wonder and astonishment, of mutual joy, transport, and felicity.”

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N. B. The above and four preceding Pages are, with some alterations, taken from the Annual Report of the *Royal Humane Society*, in London, for 1799.

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BOSTON, JUNE 13, 1804.

*Yesterday the Humane Society, celebrated the anniversary of their institution. After the business of the anniversary, the Society went in procession to the Chapel Church, and after prayers, by the Rev. Mr. Gray, a scientific Discourse, embracing the great objects of the Society, was pronounced by Dr. John C. Howard ; and the following original Ode, written by R. T. Paine, jun. Esq. was sung in an admirable style, by Mrs. Jones.*

“SPIRIT OF THE VITAL FLAME !”

AIR——ADAGIO.

O'er the swift-flowing Stream, as the Tree broke in air,  
Plung'd a youth in a tyrannous wave ;  
No ear heard his shriek ;—faint with toil and despair,  
He sunk, and was whelm'd in his grave !

RECITATIVO.

See Humanity's angel alight on the scene !  
Tho' the Shadows of Death have dissembled his mien ;

See his corse is redeem'd from the Stream's icy bed,  
And a Mother's wild grief shrieks "alas! he is dead!"

AIR———LARGO MEASTOSO.

Spirit of the Vital Flame!  
Touch with life his marble frame!  
From the day-star's radiant choir,  
Bring thy torch of quenchless fire,  
And bid a Mother's hope respire!

ALLEGRO.

Hither, sparkling cherub, fly!  
Mercy's herald, cleave the sky!  
To human prayer benignant heaven  
The salient spring of life has given;  
And science, while her eye explores  
What power the dormant nerve restores,  
Surveys the godhead, and adores;  
And *him*, the first of glory's clan,  
Proclaims, who saves a fellow man!

MAESTOSO.

Spirit of the vital flame!  
Touch again his marble frame!  
Bid the quivering nerve return,  
'Till the kindling eye discern  
A Mother's tears with rapture burn!

ALLEGRO ASSAI.

Behold, the quickning Spirit raise  
The *trembling limb*, the *wandering gaze*!  
Instinct listens! Memory wakes!  
Thought from cold extinction breaks;  
Reason, Motion, frenzy, fear,  
Religion's triumph, Nature's tear,  
Almighty Power, thy hand is here!

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*The collection for the Society's funds was handsome.*









